

DETAILED ACTION

Reason for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1 and 4 are allowable over prior art of record.

Claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 depend from claims 1 and 4, therefore, are allowable.

Independent claims 1 and 4 recite the limitation of:

"...calculate a color correction quantity to match tone and brightness of the non-degenerated region in the specimen with the counterparts of the non-degenerated region in the standard specimen, and correcting the image data of the specimen with the color correction quantity".

The closest reference of US 4,741,043 to Bacus discloses a method and apparatus for image analyses of biological specimens, where extracting cell objects on the basis of gray level information. However, this reference either by itself or by combination with other references does not teach the calculating of color correction quantity to match tone and brightness of the non-degenerated region in the specimen with the counterparts of the non-degenerated region in the standard specimen, and correcting the image data of the specimen with the color correction quantity.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information:

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AMARA ABDI whose telephone number is (571)270-1670. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Le Vu can be reached on (571) 272-7332. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/AMARA ABDI/
Examiner, Art Unit 2624

/Vu Le/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2624

